

Mobutu, rebels fail to reach agreement

News agencies

KINSHASA - Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko flew back to his capital yesterday after an abortive bid to hold a second round of talks with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

Airport sources said he flew in from Pointe Noire in neighbouring Congo where he spent the night after Kabila, reportedly raising new security concerns, declined to join the South African sponsored talks.

Mobutu might have resigned in favour of an all-party transitional authority yesterday if the peace talks had gone ahead, South African state radio said.

The radio said it had obtained a copy of President Nelson Mandela's two-page proposal for an agreement which said Mobutu would step down within 24 hours of signing it.

It said the document proposed a 10-point agreement calling for Zaire to be run by a transitional authority comprising representatives of all parties in proportions agreed to by Mobutu and Kabila until elections are held.

"It states that Mobutu will vacate his post within 24 hours of signing

the document. He will play no future role in government structures, but his safety and that of his family will be guaranteed. He will also be given the courtesy and dignity usually afforded to a former head of state," the radio said.

Government and diplomatic sources said the division of power within the transitional authority between followers of Mobutu and of Kabila was a current sticking point.

An initial proposal for a 60-40 split in Kabila's favour had been scrapped, partly as a result of French government objections, they said.

"If he (Kabila) had gone to the ship, a process of transition would have started this morning. This process (the Mandela document) would be a lot shorter than the military option," a government source said.

Mandela, unbowed by his failure, yesterday scheduled talks with Kabila. He sent a plane to the Angolan enclave of Cabinda to bring Kabila to Cape Town for an afternoon meeting.

President Thabo Mbeki would remain in Pointe Noire to maintain

contact with Mobutu's government delegation, said South African government spokesman Ricky Naidoo.

"In our view the talks are not derailed. Kabila has not said that he will not talk, he has merely raised concerns about his security.

"We think there is still a very large opening for them both to walk through to achieve peace in Zaire."

Asked whether Mandela, who refused to take the peace ship out to sea, was irritated by Kabila's behaviour, a spokesman said: "The president was very calm. The humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Zaire is unprecedented. There is no amount of patience he cannot find. He is compelled to continue."

A member of the Organisation of African Unity delegation in Pointe Noire told reporters the OAU was very pessimistic about prospects for a negotiated peace following the cancellation of the second face-to-face meeting between Mobutu and Kabila.

Mobutu agreed to talks on the same ship on May 4 to hand power to an elected president, but no arrangements were agreed.



Space shuttle Atlantis astronauts wave as they depart for the launching pad before yesterday's liftoff. Clockwise from left: Pilot Eileen Collins, Elena Kondakova of Russia, Jean-Francois Clervoy of France, Edward Lu, Carlos Noriega, Michael Foale and Commander Charles Precourt. (Reuters)

Atlantis off to repair Mir

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis and a crew of seven soared into a clear pre-dawn sky yesterday in pursuit of Russia's orbiting Mir station, in urgent need of the oxygen generator and other repair equipment being ferried up.

"We're on our way!" shuttle commander Charles Precourt said in Russian — *poekhali*, the same word uttered at liftoff by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space 36 years ago.

Astronaut Michael Foale couldn't wait to get going. He will spend more than four months aboard Mir, swapping places with Dr. Jerry Linenger once Atlantis arrives at the station tonight.

Mir was halfway around the world on its 64,190th orbit of Earth when Atlantis blasted off promptly at 4:07 a.m., momentarily turning the dark sky into day. The shuttle was visible for more than seven minutes, resembling a bright then

dimming star.

Linenger and his two Russian crewmates on Mir were out of contact with ground controllers at the time and had to wait for the good news. Mir commander Vasily Tsiblev saw the illuminated, empty launch pad when the station later flew over Cape Canaveral.

This will be the sixth time Atlantis docks with Mir — and arguably the most important.

The 11-year-old station has had numerous breakdowns as well as a fire since Atlantis dropped Linenger off in January.

Although the situation has improved in the past few weeks, it's still serious because of the lack of functioning spares in Mir's life-support systems.

The oxygen generator, which was rushed into production by the Russians, will be one of the first items moved into Mir during the five days of linked flight. The 115-kilo cylinder is designed to produce

oxygen from waste water via electrolysis, and will replace a broken generator aboard Mir.

Also among the more than one ton of Russian gear bound for Mir: a valve for a still-unbuilt backup unit for removing carbon dioxide from the air, hoses, clamps and caps for plugging leaks in the cooling system; and carbon monoxide detectors.

Officials in both space programs liken Mir to an old car that needs constant tinkering to keep running. But the station has traveled 2.5 billion km and was meant to last only five years. Many wonder how many more years — or days — it has left.

"The Mir has been limping along for a number of years now," said James Oberg, an independent consultant on Russian space technology. "Money's the key. The Mir is a cash cow for the Russian Space Agency."

NASA is paying hundreds of millions of dollars to the Russians for its astronauts to live on Mir and

gain experience for the future international space station. The shuttle-Mir program is supposed to end in June 1998, when the seventh and final astronaut returns from the station.

Foale, 40, a British-born astrophysicist, will be the fifth NASA astronaut to live on Mir. NASA managers debated for weeks before giving him the go-ahead; they wanted to make sure the station was safe. He's already been to Mir, but never inside.

He came within 12 meters of Mir during a 1995 shuttle flyby that was a rehearsal for the docking missions.

Peering at him through a station window was Russian cosmonaut Elena Kondakova, who is one of his shuttle crewmates and, in fact, is the first Russian woman to fly on a US spaceship.

Also on board Atlantis are a Frenchman, the first Peruvian-born astronaut and NASA's first female shuttle pilot.

Eddie Murphy sues tabloids

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eddie Murphy has filed separate lawsuits against two tabloid publications, saying they published false stories prompted by his encounter with a transsexual prostitute.

The suits, filed yesterday and each seeking \$5 million in damages, contend the *National Enquirer*, *The Globe* and their reporters knew the stories were untrue.

Murphy filed a third lawsuit against an individual identified as Ioane Seiliu for comments attributed to him in the *New York Post*. The *Post* itself was not named as a defendant in the suit, which seeks \$1 million in damages.

Murphy has said he was just trying to be nice when he picked up Atisone Seiliu, 20, in West Hollywood on the morning of May 2 while undercover sheriff's deputies looked on.

Murphy, 36, was pulled over minutes after Atisone Seiliu got into his car. Seiliu was arrested on a warrant, but authorities said Murphy had broken no law.

A spokesman for the actor, Paul Bloch, said only that the lawsuits "speak for themselves." *The Enquirer* article, *Eddie Murphy's Secret Sex Life — His Transvestite Hooker Tells All*, included accounts of alleged encounters between Murphy and two transsexuals.

Danes rage over US seizure of child

NEW YORK — The clash of cultures that divided a Danish woman and her baby - and Danish and American public opinion - was nearly resolved after five days when authorities reunited the family at an undisclosed location.

Sorensen and her daughter were reunited at the Danish Seaman's Church in Brooklyn Heights.

"You should have seen them together," Hans Grunnet, the Danish consul general told the *Daily News*. "They were wonderful." He added that the baby appeared in "perfect" condition. "She was well taken care of," he said.

While Sorensen regained custody of her chubby-cheeked 14-month-old daughter, New York officials were insisting that police acted properly in charging her and the child's father with endangering the welfare of a child.

The couple were arrested when they left Liv outside a restaurant in the rough East Village neighborhood while they dined inside. This

became a tale of two cities: New York, where leaving your child unattended outside a restaurant is a crime, and Copenhagen, where the same act is normal procedure.

"To leave a child unattended for an hour on a city street in New York is pretty inappropriate," said child services commissioner Nicholas Scopetta.

The international incident began when Sorensen, visiting from Copenhagen for a month, and the baby's father, Exavier Wardlaw, a movie production assistant who lives in New York, met for dinner in the East Village. Sorensen, as is customary in Denmark, left the baby in a carriage outside the Dallas BBQ restaurant.

The parents were at a table two meters away, separated from the child by two tables and a plate glass window.

Employees and other diners asked about the child's safety but the parents rebuffed them. One customer then called 911.

Police arrested both parents and jailed them

for three days. The child was taken away and placed in foster care. The father was additionally charged with disorderly conduct, and both parents have a May 19 court date.

The case has reverberated across two continents. New Yorkers were stunned by the idea of parents leaving their child on the sidewalk. Danes were outraged by the idea of police arresting parents sitting near their child.

The parents "had no idea that there was anything wrong with what they were doing. They were on one side of a glass partition, and on the other side was the child," said Wardlaw's lawyer, David Kirsch.

Wardlaw, an American who has lived in New York for more than 11 years, believed the child was perfectly safe, Kirsch said.

A Dane would find it strange that "you could actually be charged here with leaving your child outside a place very near where you could see what was going on," said Kim Christiansen, a spokesman for the Danish Consulate.

Shocked and grieving on the sudden death of our dear

EMILIO BRUNS

Family in Israel:
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On the first anniversary of the passing of our dearest

JOACHIM (Peter) EILON

we shall meet at his grave at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem, on Wednesday, May 21, 1997 at 5:30 p.m.

The Family

"The more beautiful and fuller the memories, the harder is the parting. But the thankfulness converts into quiet serenity and a treasured gift. One remembers the wonderful past as a precious legacy." Dietrich Bornhoeffer

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EMILIO BRUNS

August 14, 1915 - May 10, 1997

prematurely and unexpectedly has left us forever.

With love, gratitude and deep sadness, I say Good-bye.
DANIELA BRUNS

The memorial service took place in Toronto on May 15, 1997. Interment will take place in the Martin Luther Church in Trittau (near Hamburg) on May 21, 1997 at 3:00 p.m.



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Yeltsin hails NATO pact

News agencies

MOSCOW - President Boris Yeltsin yesterday praised the new pact mapping out relations between Moscow and NATO, but his defence minister said it did not resolve all problems with the Western alliance.

Yeltsin, in a telephone call to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, described the accord as "a really major step aimed at more stability in Europe and the world overall," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Sometime this summer, the Russians will open an office at NATO headquarters with an ambassador and a military staff — something unthinkable just a few years ago.

With the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and plans for NATO expansion into Eastern Europe plunging ahead, Moscow has bowed to the inevitable and cut the best deal it could.

That deal is a 16-page document called the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation. It is expected to be approved by NATO member governments and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the next few days.

President Clinton called the accord "a historic step to a peace-

ful, undivided, democratic Europe." Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who negotiated the agreement with NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, said it was "a great victory for reason."

The agreement creates a NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council that will give the Russians a voice, but not a vote, in NATO deliberations. The council will have its own secretariat at NATO headquarters and will be the principal forum for security consultations.

In the agreement, the alliance repeated its position that it had "no intention, no reason and no plan" to put nuclear weapons on the territories of new members, which will include some former Soviet allies from Eastern Europe. But it didn't pledge never to do so.

But Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov, in Hawaii on the last leg of a visit to the United States, said the agreement did not address all outstanding issues between NATO and Russia.

"As long as NATO remains a military and political alliance, this will raise a certain lack of understanding and acceptance in Russia," he said. "It will take a lot of work to establish a trusting partnership between Moscow and

Turkish tanks continue crossing into Iraq

HABUR, Turkey — Armored personnel carriers, trucks equipped with heavy machine guns and oil tankers streamed across the border to northern Iraq yesterday as back up for Turkish soldiers pursuing Kurdish guerrillas.

It was the second day of the offensive troops, tanks and jets launched across the border against Turkish Kurds seeking autonomy. The rebels are members of the Kurdistan Workers Party, PKK.

The official Anatolia news agency said 30 PKK guerrillas were killed in clashes near the border since the start of the offensive. The dispatch said rebels were fleeing towards the Iranian border.

In Thursday's air raids, Turkish jets bombed five PKK camps in Sinat, Hakurk, Zap, Zeli and Haftanin, Anatolia said.

F-4 jets from two southeastern Turkish bases struck camps of the separatist PKK while US-made Cobra helicopters continued the assault on rebel units.

There was no word of any casualties on the Turkish side, but fighting was continuing and the toll was expected to rise.

The incursion — the biggest in

two years and involving at least 10,000 troops — was carried out under a "news blackout" with journalists barred from the region and film and mobile telephones confiscated by Iraqi Kurds supporting the attack.

"You will not get in today," a senior Turkish commander told reporters at the Habur border crossing, which was sealed to civilian traffic before the attack.

With reporters barred from the immediate area it was impossible to confirm the scope of the Turkish thrust.

Soldiers at Habur, the main commercial entry point, said the army had established a second crossing further to the east to speed up the movement of men and machines over the border.

Anatolia said troops had also begun a big assault around the mountains to the west, towards Iraq's borders with Syria.

Defense Minister Turhan Tayan said the Iraq operation — the biggest since a 35,000-man, six-week incursion in 1995 — was a "humanitarian mission" to protect Iraqi Kurds from the PKK.

Warding off the evil eye

Ehud Barak stole the party establishment right from underneath Shimon Peres, but instead of basking in the glow of his triumph, the retired general is wary of the price of victory, Sarah Honig writes

After the dramatic show-down with Shimon Peres at the Labor Party convention in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night, leadership front-runner Ehud Barak summoned his closest allies and instructed them to make sure he was not applauded too loudly the next day when he entered the auditorium.

The request raised no eyebrows. One of the convention participants later explained that Barak was acting much like an old, superstitious shtetl dweller afraid of the evil eye from those who begrudge his success.

Barak had managed to do the near-impossible by trouncing Peres, the man who had dominated the Labor Party machine for two decades.

Even when the party leadership was narrowly wrested from him by the late Yitzhak Rabin, Peres never slipped from the Labor helm. He won every internal party struggle against Rabin, except for the No. 1 slot. Barak stole the party establishment right from underneath Peres, but is wary of the price of victory.

Barak had suspected from the outset that Peres wanted the party presidency not because he craved prestige, but as a last-ditch effort to hang on to party leadership. Peres, after all, had already tried other schemes, such as the national unity non-starter and a push for early elections.

Thus when Barak foiled Peres's final attempt to become co-leader, he could not sit back and savor his success. He was frightened by his own triumph. Indeed, Barak's sworn foe, MK Haim Ramon, warned him that a wounded Peres is far more dangerous than Peres wearing the untried party president hat.

This is why Barak concluded that the convention's second day and the entire run-up to the June 3 leadership primary would have to be an anti-climax to Tuesday's sensation. Shrewdly, Barak calculated that now is the time to appear to evince sensitivity, which is why he ordered his lieutenants to send word down to the ranks not to applaud him too enthusiastically. He also stipulated that there are to be no cheers, chants, or anything which could be construed as glee - never mind gloating - in the aftermath of the savage beating Peres endured.

Barak can't afford to be cast

as the villain just three weeks before the primary.

This despite the fact that Peres went to a lot of trouble to make it appear that he is not nettled in the least. In an amazing display of aplomb, he sought to claim that no offense was taken. "I didn't need the president title, I didn't even seek it. It wasn't my initiative. Friends came up with the idea and worked for it and I couldn't let them down. I couldn't tell them that they toiled for nothing."

"The appointment was not

Barak stipulated that there are to be no cheers, chants or anything which could be construed as glee - never mind gloating - in the aftermath of the savage beating Peres endured.

important. All I am concerned about is that time is running out fast for the peace process. We must save it for future generations. That is all that motivates me now and I will work relentlessly to save the peace process for my grandchildren and for all children. For that I need no title, no license, no permission from anyone. I am a free man."

IT WAS that declaration of independence that all but threw the Barak camp into a tizzy. Nothing in the Labor Party these days is what it appears.

Rather than having a soothing effect, Peres's words only heightened Barak's ever-present wariness. While Barak may have expressed his confidence that Peres will not turn against him and assured Peres that his political career will not be over by June 3, given the nature of

relations in the party now, no side trusts the other's sincerity.

As the first sitting of the Labor convention wound down, whispers abounded, shadows lurked in corners, and, while everyone strove to appear to talk softly, all the protagonists were careful to carry big sticks just in case.

Barak had to cautiously prepare for any contingency and that meant meticulous care not to look too happy, or popular, and definitely not mean.

But why? It would appear from the ignominious defeat Peres suffered that he is a political goner. Moreover, just as Barak strove to lower the profile of his victory, Peres took pains to lower expectations of his bitter vengeance. He liberally granted interviews to political reporters in which he seemed to let bygones be bygones, vowing not to enter the Netanyahu government on his own, not to bolt Labor and not to set up a breakaway peace party.

On the face of it, Barak has nothing to fear, yet he is a confirmed believer in Peres's near-mythical powers as a political sorcerer.

Even among his most ardent boosters, Barak has the reputation of being a political paranoid. But, as the old adage admits, even some paranoids have real enemies, and nothing Barak saw and heard at the convention could induce him to lower his guard. For instance, Barak could not lose sight of Peres's post-convention schedule.

The first item on the itinerary of the tireless Peres, right after he left the convention (just in time, so avoid Barak's closing speech), was no less than a meeting with Yasser Arafat under Socialist International auspices.

Several sources close to Barak say he harbors no delusions of a letup in Peres's continued hyperactivity. Peres, who can no longer claim to lead a party, much less a government, obviously has no intention of withdrawing from public life and devoting himself to his memoirs.

If more indications were needed they came from Peres's loyal sidekick MK Dalia Itzik (who nevertheless supports Barak's primary bid). Itzik had warned everyone just after Peres's humiliating rout that the



Ehud Barak embraces a supporter at this week's political convention. (Israel Sun)

alarm bells for Barak by maintaining that Ramon can still challenge Barak a year before elections, when the party will have to ratify his candidacy for prime minister.

Ramon told Barak that it won't be over on June 3 and that he will be waiting to take him on.

Significantly, Peres cheerfully chimed in, saying Ramon was "perfectly right because in a democracy a leader must always face challenges."

Around Barak, Ramon is regarded as a younger, less astute version of Peres who may take more reckless risks. Like Peres, Ramon has little to lose. He expects Barak to wreak vengeance on all his political antagonists as of June 4.

Ramon was pitted against Barak from the day Barak entered politics. They bickered bitterly during last May's elec-

Barak was acting much like an old superstitious shtetl dweller afraid of the evil eye from those who begrudge his success

tion campaign, when they co-managed it, and then spent much energy blaming each other for the debacle.

If Barak wins the primary, as appears more likely now than ever, then Ramon could turn very desperate.

The speculation in the harassed Barak camp now is that Peres may act via the Ramon proxy.

If Peres does not form a new party, perhaps Ramon will do it on his behalf.

A senior source in Barak's inner sanctum also suggested that not much trust should be placed on Peres's denials that he would consider joining the Likud government.

The source noted that such a quasi-national unity move is not even feasible now. The minute it does become a more realistic option, however, Peres will be the first to jump on the bandwagon, the source said.

But Peres need not go to such lengths to hurt Barak, stressed the source. Peres can get his own back by just bad-mouthing Barak and giving the Likud choice quotes to use against Barak in the 2000 elections.

delegates had freed him of all fetters which bind him to the party.

Even after he sought to reassure all and sundry that he "reaches no decisions in moments of anger or agitation,"

she insisted that "Peres did not say the last word. Not everything has been heard from him yet. Things will happen."

She emphasized that she knows what she is talking about. She also said this to

Barak, who was so conciliatory as to phone and congratulate her on her speech to the convention in which she bitterly attacked Barak.

If Itzik's input were not enough, Ramon rang more

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Democracy: Iranian style

Social issues, rather than cries of death to Israel and America, have dominated the campaigning for next week's Iranian elections, Steve Rodan reports

The writer is a 21-year-old Iranian student who hardly remembers Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It is a plaintive appeal to the Islamic regime that rose from the ashes of the 1978 revolution, an Iranian version of the rock anthem "My Generation." "The suspicion and contempt is growing daily," the student, who remains anonymous, writes in a recent letter to the daily *Salam* newspaper. "Every minute we uncover more examples of friction and tension, particularly in the university. They are blaming the students, their ideas and even their bad intentions. Everything is placed on the back of my generation that today studies in the university. The gap that separates my generation from that of the revolution is greater than the gap between my [much older] sister and brother and my parents."

In a country of 63 million where more than half of the population was born after the overthrow of the shah and where the voting age is 15, this student's letter represents a view that even the militant regime in Teheran can't ignore. And in the last days of the current presidential campaign, which ends with elections next Friday, the candidates are focusing on the social fabric of Iran.

Many of the issues resemble those in many democracies - corruption, unemployment, inequality and inflation. There is little mention of "Death to America" or "Death to Israel," two of the most common rallying cries of the Islamic revolution.

But being an Islamic republic brings another set of issues, unique to Iran, such as whether women should be allowed to ride bicycles.

"The first thing to remember about these elections is that they're largely about domestic issues," says Patrick Clawson, a lecturer at Washington's National Defense University. "The biggest difference between the two leading candidates is about culture." David Menashri, head of the Middle East and African History department and senior research fellow at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies, is struck by the fact that

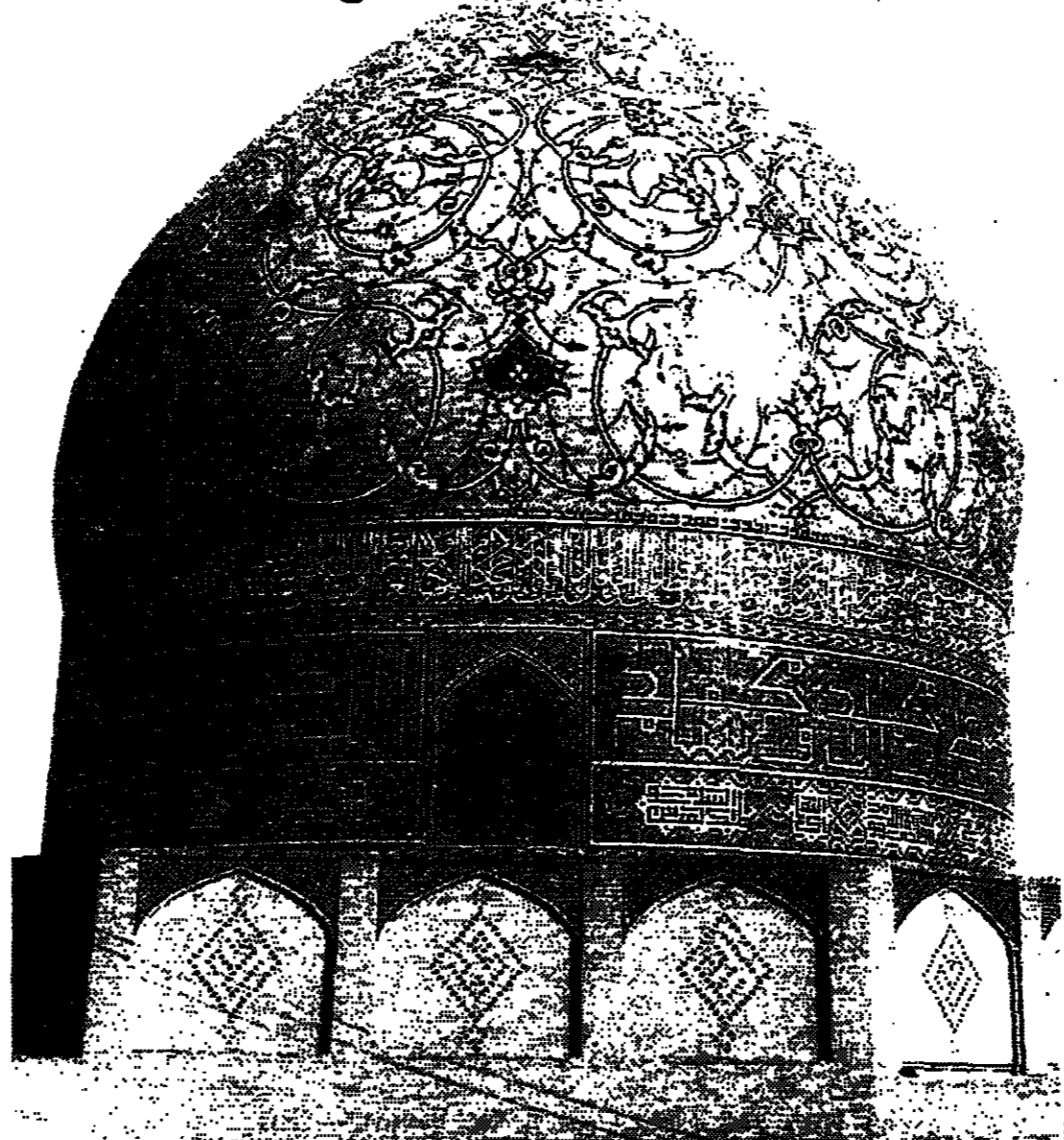
there is a presidential election at all. The practice began after the death of Khomeini in 1989 and has continued every four years. President Hashemi Rafsanjani has already served the maximum two four-year terms permitted under Iran's constitution.

"The most important thing about these elections is that they are coming out in time," says Menashri, who next week will lecture on Iran in the inauguration of a chair for modern Iranian studies at Tel Aviv University, sponsored by Iranian entrepreneur Parviz Nazarian. "This is the most important sign of stability. Rafsanjani wanted to be president again but the constitution said you can't be president for a third term and he obeyed."

Democracy Iranian-style is built on Islamic consensus. Not everyone can run for president or any public office in Iran. The Council of Guardians, a body dominated by clerics, must approve each candidate. The council disqualified about 40 percent of last year's 5,000 entries in parliamentary elections.

In the last presidential elections in 1993, the council approved three out of 100 would-be candidates. The council does not explain its reason for disqualification.

This election - in which a candidate must win 50 percent of the vote to avoid a second round -



merchants. The assessment is that this endorsement means he could use the nationwide network of mosques to bring out the vote. His chief opponent is

socialist-minded clergy and the university students. He is regarded as being close to Rafsanjani. Mohammed Mohammadi Reyshahri is also a cleric. He represents the radical wing and he is regarded as a threat to Nateq-Noori's efforts to tap the religious constituency. He is most closely identified with the "Death to America and Israel" wing of the electorate.

Reza Zavarei, another cleric, was deputy interior minister. He is regarded as one of Iran's most prominent extremists. His claim to fame was as head of Kasser prison, where so-called "enemies of the revolution" were jailed.

Non-clerics and liberals were disqualified by the Council of Guardians. One of them was Ibrahim Yazdi, an English-speaking former foreign minister who once had a green card and lived in Texas. He had advocated normal relations with America and the creation of a democratic atmosphere in Iran.

The campaign debate has been



Iranian women can shoot, but should they be allowed to ride bicycles? That's one of the issues in next week's elections.

No candidate would dare discuss the huge Iranian nonconventional arms program, the pros and cons of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Iranian backing of terrorism, or even the wisdom of the death warrant on author Salman Rushdie.

has four entries. The frontrunner is Ali Akbar Nateq-Noori, the speaker of parliament. He has the endorsement of the Society of Combatant Clergy, a group he heads, dominated by conservative clerics and supported by bazaar

Mohammad Khatami, a former minister of Islamic guidance who was forced to resign for his liberal treatment of the press and arts. Like Nateq-Noori, Khatami is a cleric, but unlike him, the former minister has the support of the

limited. No candidate, for example, would dare discuss the huge Iranian nonconventional arms program, the pros and cons of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Iranian backing of terrorism, or even the wisdom of the death warrant on author Salman Rushdie. But the consequences of Iranian policy are being discussed.

Most of these consequences have been economic. Parliament speaker Nateq-Noori drives in a bullet-proof Mercedes, but most Iranians can't make ends meet. Many of these Iranians don't enjoy the profits of the Organization of the Oppressed, headed by Muhesen Rafiqdust, which invests an estimated \$120 million in Western banks. Rafiqdust's brother, Morteza, is in jail charged with embezzling about \$400 million of these funds.

Iran has improved its finances from the dark days of 1993. It has rescheduled \$10 billion in debt. But 25 percent of oil revenues, which remain stagnant, are allocated for debt repayment. Unemployment remains high - a result of the rampant birth rate - although official figures don't reflect this.

"The biggest problem of Iran is to get out of its economic woes," Menashri says. "The revolution has lost its ideology. The religious-politicians rule Iran. Khomeini wanted the theologians. Those who rule Iran today don't have high religious authority. Today, the economic situation of the lower classes is difficult. They need housing, education, health care." Menashri views Iran as having turned to nationalism rather than adhere to the principles of an Iranian revolution. "There is a process of pragmatism," he says. "The Iranian revolution is not directed by ideologues. The Shi'ites in Iraq wanted help but Iran didn't give it to them. The Kurds in Iraq wanted help and they didn't get it."

Regardless, whoever is presi-

dent will face strict limitations, perhaps even greater than those Rafsanjani faced. Looking over his shoulder will be Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the nation's spiritual leader and bearer of the revolutionary torch. Since 1993, he has eclipsed Rafsanjani as the most powerful man in Iran, insisting on supporting terrorism - such as the killing of dissidents despite the diplomatic cost. In April, a Berlin court implicated Khamenei and Rafsanjani in the 1992 murder of four Iranian Kurdish dissidents.

Analysts believe Khamenei will bring Nateq-Noori into an alliance to marginalize Rafsanjani.

For his part, Rafsanjani has no plans to retire from politics and return to his family of pistachio dealers. He is said to be wishing for a Khatami victory, which would help him fulfill his ambition of being appointed deputy supreme leader. The last person in that position was Hussein Ali Montazeri, Khomeini's deputy, who was dismissed in 1989.

Analysts don't believe that in the end any of the candidates will make a difference regarding Iranian relations with Israel or the US. "Whoever wins would have a muddle-through policy," Clawson says.

"If Khatami wins he would be more open to foreign investment. Perhaps 10 years down the line, you can see a government that goes the Khatami route or the

Nateq-Noori road. Now, there isn't much difference for Israel and US." The Dayan Center's Menashri agrees. He says Iran has become a nation that has calculated its risks.

"Until now, it has withdrawn from almost all of its ideological creed," he says. "The question is whether it will also steer away from its anti-Israeli and anti-American attitude. One way of looking is that it already has steered away from the everything else, it will stop its anti-Israel approach. The other attitude is because it has done everything else, the anti-Israel element is the only element in the legitimacy of the regime. After Rafsanjani, it could be one way or the other."

But, for the average Iranian there is precious little time left for the status quo. As the 21-year-old student in Salam put it in his letter, the future of Iran appears foreboding. "The *chador* [garment worn by Iranian women] was the problem for my generation," he writes. "Censorship and dictates are the problem for every generation. Perhaps we relate to this as normal and natural but I am scared. As a representative of my generation I want to say to you that the revolution, the war and the front are not understood the way they were understood by the previous generation. And don't answer me that this is the work of enemies or wicked people."

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Antonia L. Alinsog, Cui Sanitarium,
P.O. Box 2464, 1000 Manila, Philippines

Uzbekistan's Jewish renaissance



A wall painting in the Amir Temur Museum in Tashkent depicting events in the life of Amir Temur, commonly known as Tamerlane, a 14th century leader considered the spiritual and political father of Uzbekistan. (Aryeh Dean Cohen)

Despite a renewal of Jewish tradition, economics is forcing Jews to leave this Central Asian republic, Aryeh Dean Cohen reports

It was altogether fitting for a delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to spend Rosh Hodesh Adar II with the Jews of Uzbekistan, traditionally considered descendants of Queen Esther and Mordechai.

But unlike their illustrious ancestors, Uzbeki Jews have a benevolent ruler in President Islam Karimov, whose tolerance has spawned a Jewish renaissance in the Central Asian republic. Indeed, that very attitude has opened the door to an exodus to Israel and the US that may soon spell the end of the proud community.

Like the *kwedo*, or phoenix, an Uzbeki national symbol, local Jewish tradition has emerged from the ashes of Soviet religious repression, with Jews now free to pursue and study their religion. Antisemitism is practically nonexistent, so it's not fear of persecution, or even Zionism, but pure economics that has most of the 28,000 remaining Jewish families waiting for a chance to leave. (The figure is based on the number who meet the criteria for immigrating under the Law of Return.)

Nonetheless, the trip provided a rare opportunity to see the efforts by Jewish groups to rekindle *yidishkeit* in Uzbekistan, and prepare its Jews for life in Israel. Meeting with the Uzbeki Jews was like discovering long-lost rela-

tives: full of warm embraces, but also concern for their welfare.

Karimov is proud that Jews have lived in Uzbekistan "from time immemorial," a big statement in an area in which Jews have lived for almost 2,000 years. Uzbekistan's rich history is felt in ancient towns like Bukhara, with its towering medieval *madrasses* or Islamic schools and crumbling Mongol desert fortress. But, while the Jewish community may have a centuries-old heritage, that tradition was cut off under Communism.

"Certainly, for the last 74 years, from the time the Soviet Union was in control of Central Asia, their contacts with the international Jewish community were severely limited," US Ambassador Stanley Escudero explained during a briefing in Tashkent. "They simply didn't know, they didn't have the [Jewish] experience... that you have all grown up with. And so for them, this is a very emotional time."

Those emotions were evident during every encounter, as at Or Avner Tashkent, a Habad-run Jewish day school, perhaps the only Habad institution in which a picture of the Lubavitcher rebbe has to share a wall with a portrait of Karimov. But Karimov has earned his spot by openly encouraging the establishment of such schools.

Habad's done wonders here,



Two classmates at the new Or Avner day school in Tashkent, where demand to attend far exceeds available space. (Aryeh Dean Cohen)

largely through the generosity of a local boy who made good: former Tashkent resident and now major international diamond merchant Lev Leviev. With his backing, Lubavitch workers have transformed a former factory into a beehive of Jewish learning. The 350 beaming Jewish pupils in grades 1 to 11 were dressed in their finest, girls with large, colored bows in their hair, boys in white shirts, some Russian-looking, some more Mongolian.

Yosef Levin, a teacher from Rehovot, explained the school, one of several Jewish day schools in the country, only opened this year, but is already filled, with two classes recently added.

The youngsters recited out of textbooks supplied by Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee, and it was easy to feel as though one was in a yeshiva in the US. There was one major difference: alongside Karimov's picture hung the words of the Uzbeki national anthem and a list of presidential decrees. Clearly, this was not Queens.

And what Jewish community would be worth its salt without dueling rabbis? At the school, we met Rabbi Abba David Gurewitz, an Ashkenazi rabbi who handed out cards reading "Chief Rabbi of Central Asia." Members of the large Bukharan Jewish population pooh-poohed that idea, and follow 36-year-old Rabbi Imoniel Shimanov. Tashkent is more Ashkenazi, while Samarkand and Bukhara to the south have more Bukharan and Sephardi populations.

Acting Israeli ambassador Ilan Ron said 5,700 Uzbeki Jews had immigrated to Israel in 1995, and this had fallen to 3,922 in 1996. About 300 to 500 leave each month now, with thousands more coming as tourists, some deciding to stay.

Karimov's open-door policy has naturally led to many people flocking to the exits, some who are ineligible but still keep trying. "We have a problem," admits First Secretary Michael Dror. "There's a very large demand to be Jewish today. There's a wave of forged documents, and people try to pull one over on us. We're always checking very carefully and if we have any doubts, we either ask for more proof or reject the person." More latitude is permitted in severe situations.

But unity was the theme of our visit to the Israeli Center, a Tashkent cultural center established in 1992 by the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency offering Hebrew and other information about Israel to Jews and non-Jews. After a moving pageant performed by Cultural Center members, featuring everything from opera to ballroom dancing, both hosts and guests had opened their hearts. When the program ended with *Hatikva*, there wasn't a dry eye in the house, a moment made larger by Escudero's later noting that "six or seven years ago, that could not possibly have happened."

Mission chairman Lester Pollak told them: "You are our brothers and sisters, and we care for you." Outside, as we boarded our bus, one of those sisters, an elderly Jewish woman, waved to us, crying into a handkerchief as she did, apparently overcome by this rare contact with other Jews.

refuge from the Nazis and which produced many great Jewish leaders, especially for the Lubavitch movement. It was easy to understand why they had come: Samarkand is to Tashkent what Jerusalem is to Tel Aviv. Suddenly, we'd traded large, ugly Soviet housing projects for long, well-kept homes on wide boulevards in this sparkling town in the hills.

More Jewish day-school children greeted us at the hotel, but the suitcases are packed here, too. "The community is totally breaking up," Ilana Cooper, a doctoral student from Boston University who had been staying with local families, explained. "It seems every person is planning to leave."

must do it, because I am Jewish and must live in Israel. Everyone who is Jewish leaves. I was born here and like Samarkand, but I must go live in Israel because I think my home is there."

Jewish Agency emissary Simha Harkochav, 25, explained how the Agency tries to prepare the immigrants. "There are people who have been living here for 70 years and haven't learnt anything about Judaism, Israel or their history. What we're doing is trying to slowly give them a little more [information] about the Jewish nation, the State of Israel, and Hebrew." Practical information about housing and jobs is also included. "They get letters from Israel, they know what's up, but

An ally in the Moslem world

If Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov has his way, Western and other investors won't have to go running to an atlas much longer to find out why it's in their global interests to have close relations with his emerging nation.

The most populous Central Asian republic, Uzbekistan has an area larger than California, and borders Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Its 19.9 million people are divided into almost 100 nationalities, including Jews who have lived there for almost 2,000 years.

Karimov means "master of his own fate" in Uzbeki, but fate has also dealt Karimov a pretty good hand with which to pursue friends in the West. His country's central location makes it, as US Ambassador Stanley Escudero put it, "one of only a few states in the region capable of playing an anchoring role" for US interests in the region. And its huge oil, natural gas and mineral reserves, particularly gold, are likely to have Western states soon standing in line to accept Karimov's offers to go steady.

"The fact is that in Central Asia and the countries in the basin of the Caspian Sea, you find the second largest concentration of hydrocarbon resources on the planet," Escudero explained. "We need that oil and that gas and we

need ways to get it out of here that will not be dependent on Russia, so that there are alternatives just in case things don't go the way we would all like in Russia." The natural gas "will enable us to think differently about the Persian Gulf and the Middle East," he says, "and it will guarantee energy supplies forever," with Israel also a potential beneficiary.

But it's not just what's on the ground that has Western states beating down the president's door - it's also what he says. His strong stand against terrorism and fundamentalism has won him many friends, and the fact that his country - with a population that is 90 percent Moslem - is one of the few bastions of moderate Islam in a region aglow with religious fundamentalism makes him the kind of friend that Israel, in particular, wants to have.

Uzbekistan recently upgraded its consulate in Tel Aviv to an embassy, and Karimov, who expressed great admiration for Binyamin Netanyahu, is expected

to visit later this year.

Israel's ties with Uzbekistan are focused largely around agriculture, since the country is in the midst of retooling its vast agriculture enterprise into more modern, moshav-like arrangements.



President Karimov

The Foreign Ministry's Mashav program, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, is training Uzbeki farmers to use new dairy equipment which they hope will triple or quadruple milk production. "We are helping people to help themselves," explained Avi Horesht, who heads the program in Uzbekistan, along with Natan Ben-Or. "I consider this to be the jewel in the crown in the relationship," Ron said, "and I think that the people appreciate the help, assistance and knowledge we share with them." Indeed, Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov called such cooperation with Israel "of crucial importance."

Karimov's liberal treatment of the country's Jewish population isn't hurting his overtures to the West either. "There has never been, and I believe there never will be, antisemitism here in Uzbekistan," he said.

US Congressman Gerald Nadler came away quite impressed. "Now I understand the strategic importance of Uzbekistan, that it has a very friendly government that is wary of Islamic fundamentalism, regards the current government in Iran with the same kind of loathing and concern we do, and wants to develop closer ties with the West and Israel. It's very clear where he wants to go, which is where we and Israel want him to go, so we have to help him."

Michael Dror, First Secretary at the Israeli Embassy in Tashkent, knows Karimov sees good relations with Israel and proper treatment of Uzbeki Jews as a way to win Western investment. "I'm sure he's taken that into consideration," he said, but added: "We are maintaining diplomatic relations with a Moslem country, which is already an accomplishment, since we don't have relations, especially friendly ones, with too many of them." Says Ron: "I think he's a man with a vision. In the world of today, when someone adopts a realpolitik diplomacy, I'm satisfied."

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Considering that he is still breathing, bickering, and in all likelihood plotting, eulogizing Shimon Peres's 50-year-long career may be premature.

Death of a statesman

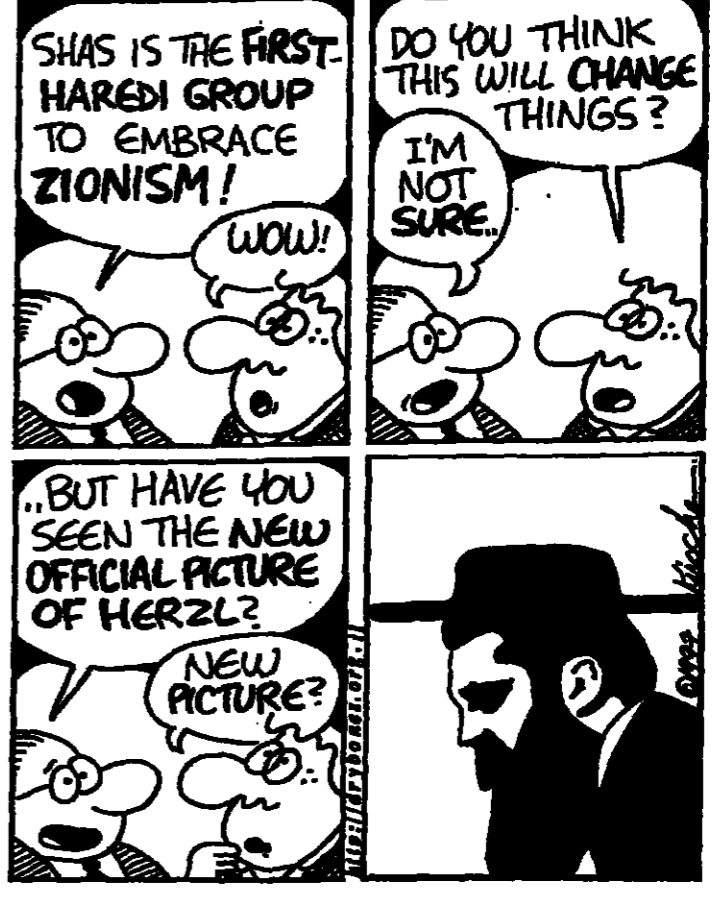
ed electoral defeats culminated in a 14-year presidency during which he played a decisive role in shaping a post-nationalist Europe. But Peres is already eight years older than Mitterrand was when he finally conquered the Elysee in 1981.

'56 to wage war on Egypt and after the '67 war backed the establishment of Jewish settlements in the newly occupied territories. However, like Nixon, an ultimately sober Peres came to understand the geopolitical limits of military power.

Peres watched helplessly as even the Hinasdrut, which he had prepared for 15 years, stabbed him in the back and withdrew their support for him. And so, like Moses at the gates of the promised land Peres looked on as his nemesis of 18 years threw into history's dustbin Peres's burning ambition to lead Israel into the next century.

thin between the quaking tectonic plates of a society in constant transition. And yet under his leadership Labor lost its old ability - maybe even the desire - to dialogue with domestic adversaries.

Dry Bones



FUNDS



By BEVERLEE BLACK

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VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHAN

surely, everybody of Yiddish-speaking provenance knows about that New York Hassid bearing the fine Gaelic name Sean (pronounced Shawn) Fergusson. Here it is for those who don't: Jack in Boberik he was Yankel Gokowicz. When he disembarked in New York, his cousin who had preceded him told him to adopt the more Anglophonic name of Jack Gale. He agreed, but by the time his turn came and the immigration clerk asked him his name, he had forgotten and he blurted in Yiddish: "Oy vay, shoin fargessen! Woe is me, I've forgotten already!"

'Oy vay, shoin fargessen!'

antiquity, serving as the Scots kings' coronation seat. In 1296 King Edward I brought it to London, where it lies under the coronation chair of the British kings. As for the British, another legend says they are the original "Hebrews," on the basis of their name: the Hebrew *brith/covenant*, and *ish/man*. But that is another matter.

church dignitary in Polish and German. The only answer I can think of is that when Polish or Austro-Hungarian clerks were handing out surnames to Jews, some candidates reported themselves as, for example, Moshe Mordechai Hakohen ("the kohen"), and, after explaining, were dubbed M.M. Kaplan. Or perhaps some of them chose the name the way, for example, some Steinbergs changed their name to Stonehill in America. I'm sure there are a few Jewish "Priestleys" formerly "Cohen" around.

one of the 13 towns Joshua allocated to the Aaronide priests (Joshua 21 and I Chronicles 6). When David was fleeing for his life from Saul, the priests of Nov sheltered him, gave him provisions, and even gave him Goliath's sword which had been kept.

SHABBAT SHALOM



Parsha: Emor

By SHLOMO RISKIN

"And God said to Moses: Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and tell them none shall be defiled for the dead among his people; but for his kin that is near to him, for his mother, and for his father..." (Lev. 21:1-1)

Sanctifying the roots of our Jewishness

the priest's own parents, such contact is permitted. What makes this passage strange is that the Torah explicitly forbids an individual who becomes a nazir (one who vows not to cut his hair, drink wine or come into contact with the dead) from defiling himself for anyone (Num. 6:7). Given that the sanctity of the nazir is more lenient than that of the priest since it is only temporary, logic would dictate that if the nazir is forbidden from contact with his dead parents, the priest certainly ought to be similarly forbidden.

Cardinal Lustiger accepted the invitation with alacrity. "It is a fit privilege for me to speak in Israel on Yom HaShoah. After all, virtually my entire family perished in the Holocaust, and I consider myself no less a Jew than my parents and grandparents," he declared in a television interview.

He removed his kippa and threw it to the ground. But then he took two steps backwards. After all, he wondered, where was his father's kippa when they killed him? And so he came to ask himself the most fateful question of his life: what value was there to the lives of his parents and grandparents if he now threw away everything they believed in and died for?

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See GIVE, Page 18

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NEW YORK

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TASE ROUNDUP

Investors in Israeli shares are optimistic about stock prices and the prospects for an interest-rate cut after it was announced that the rise in the consumer price index was lower than anticipated.

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By ROBERT DANIEL Investors in Israeli shares are optimistic about stock prices and the prospects for an interest-rate cut after it was announced that the rise in the consumer price index was lower than anticipated.

Investors optimistic after CPI report

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, 159.5m worth of shares traded. About three issues rose for every two that declined.

Leading gainers yesterday included Teva, up 3.75%; Israel Chemicals, up 0.75%; software developer Formula Systems, up 3.25%; metal-products maker Urdan Industries, up 3.25%; and Discount Bank, up 0.5%.

Dollar flags against yen, Euro shares weaker

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar ended almost two yen lower in Europe yesterday and extended its decline this month to almost 10 percent as heightened speculation of a rise in Japanese interest rates hit global currency markets.

Dow hits new record

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks posted a late advance yesterday, boosting the Dow Jones industrial average and other market measures to new highs, as investors wrestled with conflicting signals on inflation and interest rates.

NEW YORK

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Treasury refuses to erase councils' deficit

By DAVID HARRIS and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"There is no way the Treasury is going to wipe out the municipalities' NIS 4 billion deficit," a Finance Ministry spokesman declared yesterday, as the Union of Local Authorities (ULA) stepped up its campaign against the ministry.

There have been ongoing negotiations between the Treasury and ULA, with the Interior Ministry attempting to act as go-between. During the talks, the mayors said they would accept the recently formulated proposals of the Efrati Committee on local authority funding, and the recommendations by Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik on tackling pay excesses, if the government wipes out their debts. The Efrati report is likely to be submitted to the cabinet for approval in one of its upcoming meetings.

A ULA attempt to bring 250 garbage trucks to blockade the Prime Minister's Office failed yesterday because police set up dozens of roadblocks around the

country and at the entrances to Jerusalem.

The Interior Ministry has asked the ULA to call off its strike until Interior Minister Eli Suissa and Finance Minister Dan Meridor meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss the plight of

the municipalities.

"While we support the ULA's claims, it won't harm them to wait a day or two," said Interior Ministry spokeswoman Tova Ellinson.

Leaders of the local authorities acceded to Suissa's request to

cease the disruption of classes.

However, ULA chairman Adi Eldar said that if the ULA's demands are not met by the government, additional action would be taken against the school system next week.

One government source yesterday

reminded the media that municipal elections are slated for November 1998. "Why do you think they're kicking up such a fuss now?" said the source. "They certainly don't want to go into an election year with problems such as a huge deficit."

Some 255 authorities held work disruptions yesterday. Some 240 closed schools up to 10th grade, while in the remainder all classes took place as usual, the ULA said. The strike also affected many kindergartens. Special education classes were not affected.

David Rudge adds: Israeli Arab council heads are to meet tomorrow to consider intensifying their strike action, independently of ULA, if no solution is forthcoming to the local authorities' financial plight.

"A meeting is scheduled to take place [today] between representatives of the ULA and Prime Minister Netanyahu," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the Forum of Arab Council Heads.

"The outcome of those talks will be discussed at the planned meeting of the monitoring committee [of the Israeli Arab leadership] on Saturday," said Suleiman.

"If nothing is forthcoming, we'll be considering an open-ended strike, even if the ULA decides against such action," he said. The Arab councils have accumulated debts of NIS 450 million.

Weizman resolves Hadassah dispute

By JUDY SIEGEL

President Ezer Weizman managed to make peace yesterday between the two feuding sides in the six-month-old dispute over the Hadassah Medical Organization's recovery program.

After presiding over a three-hour meeting Wednesday afternoon at Beit Hanassi with representatives of the doctors and HMO management, Weizman goaded them into resolving the labor dispute during 16 more hours of continuous discussions that ended yesterday morning.

HMO director-general Prof. Shmuel Penchas, Israel Medical Association chair-

man Dr. Yoram Blachar and doctors' union members signed an agreement under the watchful prodding of Beit Hanassi director-general Arye Shumer, who participated, bleary-eyed, in the entire session until "white smoke" emerged.

"Hadassah won, and we are very happy," declared both HMO deputy director-general Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef and union spokeswoman Behira Bardugo yesterday when asked who was the victor.

Management, which had refused to cancel unilateral steps for reducing the organization's NIS 187 million deficit, finally agreed to arbitrate them, and the doctors consented to a series of budget-cutting steps, including

a freeze on the number of job slots and the institution of a staff loan to management (instead of a 4% reduction in wages) over four years.

As a result, the 700 doctors at the two Hadassah-University Hospitals in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem and on Mt. Scopus yesterday brought an end to all sanctions and strikes.

Weizman initiated his Solomonic rescue mission after receiving pleas from students at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, whose lecturers went out on strike nearly two months ago.

Medical school classes will resume on Sunday.

Ministry: No '97 matric exams in History, English, Hebrew

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

High school seniors who don't know much about history breathed a sigh of relief yesterday, after an Education Ministry committee decided that subject, along with English and Hebrew, would be left off this year's list of required matriculation exams.

However, pupils also got a quick lesson in politics, as MKs blasted Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's last-minute announcement that he had cancelled the lottery and turned over the exam decision to a committee.

The committee - headed by Director-General Benzion Dell and including Pedagogic Secretariat chairman Prof. Ozer Schild and ministry Chief Scientist Prof. Zamira Mevarech - left math, literature, Bible, and civics as this year's required exams.

A ministry spokesman said Hammer's decision to dump the lottery stemmed from its problematic "Lotto" image, which cheapened the respectable educa-

tional framework.

Hammer said in a statement the system also undermined the "standing" and "prestige" of exams that were not required, since subjects could come up in the lottery several years running, as had literature the past two years.

Dell said the committee examined the past two lotteries for this very reason, making sure that literature would be a required exam this year. English and Hebrew, which were required the past two years, were therefore left off this time. Dell said the pupils had not been hurt a bit by the decision, since, "We promised only four exams, and that is what will be."

Hammer, who is abroad, rejected criticism of the last-minute dropping of the lottery. "Just as the finance minister doesn't announce a planned devaluation ahead of time so as not to shake up the economy, I thought announcing this ahead of time would interfere with studies, and would create pressure groups for and against certain subjects," he said.

Former education minister MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), who introduced the lottery, said Hammer's misleading the nation's high school pupils just an hour before it was scheduled was very serious, and intended to prevent a public debate. He said the lottery was designed to prevent any outside influence, but this is impossible once it was put in the hands of the director-general.

MK Dalia Itzik threatened to petition the High Court of Justice over the issue. She demanded an emergency session of the Knesset Education Committee to look into the matter and that Hammer resign, saying: "He who lies and breaks promises should not head our educational system."

Meretz MK Dudi Zucker said the move was tantamount to cheating the pupils, and the fact it was announced at the last moment and that Hammer is abroad made it seem like a trick planned ahead of time.

Two Jerusalem seniors facing the test were split in their feelings.

Ayelet, a pupil at the capital's AMIT-Dror High School, said, "The ministry knew about this all year, and just sprung it on us at the last moment. If we had known this was going to happen, we would have protested." However, her friend, Na'ama, of Pelech, said she was happy about the decision to exclude history, since, "I was hoping it would be dropped, and I lucked out."



Hollywood welcomes Milo

Actress Goldie Hawn hugs Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo after Hawn was named arts emissary to Tel Aviv, during a benefit dinner Wednesday in Beverly Hills launching Israel's jubilee year celebrations. Actor Kirk Douglas was awarded the title of honorary ambassador at the dinner, which was sponsored by the Tel Aviv Foundation. Following the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Douglas Foundation initiated a special project with the Tel Aviv Foundation, a park in the city's Ezra neighborhood.

Cities to mark solidarity with AIDS victims

Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa will join 290 cities around the world to mark an international day of solidarity with AIDS victims. The events here will be organized on Sunday by the Israel AIDS Task Force. The central event in Tel Aviv at 7 p.m. will be a candlelight march from Sderot Ben-Zion, corner of King George Street, ending at 8 p.m. at the Cinematheque.

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